20. A Quarrel between Husband and Wife.

Jal mîŋ e ɔwɔŋɔ. Ka ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ kîɲɔ, e kîɲɔ yî; ka jal gwí wɔ̈ɔ̈, kîɲɔ: á, go yí áŋ? Yo kɛ kɛɲ. Ka ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ ka kwîɲɔ wɛɲ. Ka gɛ ɔɛɲɔ, ka gɛ tîɔŋ yî kɛɲ; chɔɔnɔ ní kwîŋ fɛt, ka nîŋ kɔ̈ɔ́ mɛ̈jî yî kɛɲ.

Ka gɛ kɛɲ̈ kî krɛŋ̈ kí kyɛ̈, ka ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ líɔ̈ɔ wɛt (yɛ); e kîɲɔ gîn chɔɔn. Ka gɛ kîɲɔ, gɛ kîɲɔ kyɛ̈, ka gɛ yîɲɔ gɔ́ɔ; ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ kɔ̈ɔkî gɔ́n, ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ ɟɛɔŋ kí ɟgɛɔ wɛt. Kɔ́ gɛ ɔ̈ɔmɔ̈, ka ní kɔ: á, ɟuɔ̈, chɛ (cho) dwɛɲ̈ o wɔ̈ɔ̈ mîŋí (mɔ̈ɔ̈), ɔwɔ̈l ɟuɔ̈! Ka gɛ wɔ̈ɔ̈lɔ. Ka gɛ yîɲɔ kí kyɛ̈. Ka ɔan a ɟuɔkɛ ɟîɲɔ kîɲɔ: ɔ́ɔmɔ́ɔ, o kɛ̈kî? o ga re wa reŋ? Jal e kɔ: í ɔwɔŋ-tîɔnɔ! ɟgɛ ɟîɲɔ! Kîɲɔ: kíɲwáŋ? Kîɲɔ: chɔ́ re o wɔ̈kɔ ga kɛɲ̈? kɔ: á, ɟaɟɛ gîn a kɔ̈kî ɔwɔ̈ kîɲɔ: go yí áŋ? Ka wɔ̈l gwí kɛɲ̈ wɛɲ̈; kɔ wɛɲ chwɔ̈l, ka e kîɲɔ; e kɔ: á, ɟɟɔnkɔ ɔɔ wɔɔ, wɔ̈kɔ ga ɟîɲɔ! kîɲɔ: kíɲwáŋ? Kîɲɔ: á, ɟɟɔnkɔ ɟɔɔ! A ɟɟɛɛ nɔ̈ɔ gwí, kîɲɔ: nɔ̈ɔ! á kɛ̈kî? A kîɲ ɔɔtɛ, chɔ wɔ̈kɔ ɟɛ ɟîɲɛ! Kîɲɔ: á, kɔ̈rkɔ́ ɟɔ́ɔ! Ño tɛɔɔ, á kwáɲ? Yo kɛ̈lɔ yí ɔɔɔ; o kɔ̈ɔ́ kîɲɔ: ɟɛɛ o yí áŋ? Kɛɛ gwí ɔɔɔɔ; ɟɔɔ (ɟɛɔɔ) kɛ̈ɛ́. Kîɲɔ: áɛ́! A tîɔɔ yí kɛɲ̈, o kɛ̈ɛ́ ɟɛ kí kɔ̈ɔ̈lɔ kɛɛ́, o kɛ̈ɛ́ gîn chɔɔn wɛɛ, ɟɛ ɟɛ̈. ɟɛɛ kɛɛ gwí ɔɔɔɔ? o kîɲɔ, o kɔ̈kî kîɲɔ: ɔwɔ̈, chɔ ɗwɛɲ̈ o wɔ̈ɔ̈ kɛɛ́l! o ɔ́ɔm ɟɛɔ, ɟwí kɔ̈kɔ́, kîɲɔ: yɛ́ wɛɲ! A kɔ̈kî: ɔɔ ɟɔɔɔ! ɟɛɛ ɟɛɛɛ! A kɔ̈kɔ kîɲɔ: kɛ̈kî! ɔɔ ɟîɲ o kɛɛ́ ɗwɔ̈l, kîɲɔ: go yí áŋ? ɟɛɛ kɛɛ gwí o kîɲ ɔɔɔɔ? A kɛ̈lɔ gîn chɔɔn; o yɛ̈kî. A kɔ̈kɔ wáŋ nɔ̈ɔ ɟwí: yí kwɔɔɔ kɛɲwáŋ? Aŋ́? chɔ́l kɛɛ́lɛ́ o kwɔ̈l yí ɟîɲ! A kɔ̈kɔ kîɲɔ: kíɲwáŋ? Yí ɗɛ, o wɔ̈kɔ ga kɛɲ̈! Yí chɔ (yɛ́) kɔɔɔ! ɟɛɛɛ́ ɟîɲɔ ɟîɲ. A kɛ̈lɔ, o kɛ̈lɔ wɛɛ, wɛɛ ɛ̈ɛ́ɛ́, o ɛ̈ɛ́ɛ́ ɔwɛɛ ɟɛ́, o ɟɔɔɛ́ ɔwɛɛ.

A certain man had married a woman. One day his wife came and brought him water (to wash his hands, as is the custom before eating). But the man was angry, and so he said: "What is that water for? I am not hungry." Thereupon the woman went outside, she too was cross. When they went to sleep, they were troubled by hunger (both having eaten nothing). The man tried to lie down, but his eyes refused to close on account of hunger.

In order to get something to eat, the man with a friend (who lived in the same house) went to steal dura. But in the meantime the woman had prepared food and came into the house, after the men had gone. After some time they returned, bringing with them the stolen dura. They sat down in the house, but did not know that the woman too was there; she hid in a corner of the house. And the two men ate. They talked to each other: "Ah, brother, you have a thick ear of corn there, just let me touch it!" And he touched it. So they ate the corn from the ears. Suddenly the woman asked: "My brothers, how? Why do you bring such shame upon me (by stealing corn and not eating the food I have prepared)?" Then the men said: "You cursed woman, loosen my cattle." She asked: "Why?" He said: "Why do you leave me hungry?"

[1] This is the formula for: "I will be divorced from you." Loosen the cattle (give back the cattle) which I have paid your father for you.